

CLAIMS

1. A temperature sensitive valve including a body affording a passageway for fluid, a valve member which is moveable relative to the body between first and second positions to control the flow of fluid through the passageway, a retaining member movable with the valve member and being engageable with a holding device to retain the valve member in the first position whilst the temperature is below a threshold value, and there being a release actuator movable when the temperature is at the threshold value to disengage the retaining member and holding device, to permit the valve member to move from the first to the second position.

2. A valve according to claim 1 wherein the valve member is pivotal about a pivot axis relative to the body from the first to the second position.

3. A valve according to claim 2 wherein the valve member is a flap which in the first position permits the substantially unimpeded flow of fluid through the passageway, and in the second position engages a valve seat at least substantially to close the passageway to the flow of fluid.

4. A valve according to claim 1 wherein a biasing device is provided to bias the valve member towards the second position when the retaining member and holding device are disengaged.

5. A valve according to claim 1 wherein once the valve member has moved to the second position, the valve member remains in the second position even in the event that the temperature falls below the threshold value.

6. A valve according to claim 1 wherein at least one of the retaining member and holding device is moveable by the release actuator to allow the retaining member and holding device to disengage at the threshold temperature.

7. A valve according to claim 5 wherein the holding device is a bifurcated element with resiliently deformable tangs, and the retaining member is a headed pin, the head of the pin being retained between the tangs of the holding element until disengaged therefrom by the action of the release actuator.

8. A valve according to claim 6 wherein the release actuator acts to prise apart the retaining member and the holding device.

9. A valve according to claim 6 wherein the holding device is a latch which is moveable to release the retaining member.

10. A valve according to claim 9 wherein the latch is pivoted to release the retaining member.

11. A valve according to claim 9 wherein a latch biasing device is provided to assist in retaining the holding device and retaining member in engagement.

12. A valve according to claim 6 wherein the holding device is a generally channel shaped member with a re-entrant mouth which, when the valve member is in its first position engages with the retaining member to retain the valve member in the first position.

13. A valve according to claim 12 wherein at the threshold temperature the release actuator urges limbs of the channel shaped member of the holding device apart to release the retaining member.

14. A valve according to claim 1 wherein the release actuator includes a thermally sensitive substance which expands as the temperature increased towards the threshold temperature, to move a moveable part to disengage the retaining member and holding device at the threshold temperature.

15. A valve according to claim 1 wherein the release actuator is mounted on the valve member.

16. A valve according to claim 1 wherein the release actuator is mounted on the body.